

March 20, 2013

Dear School Administrators and Counselors, School Liaison Officers and Military Families,

April 2013 is the Month of the Military Child. During April, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) along with many other organizations, non-profits, and public entities will underscore the important role children play in our military communities. Our military children and families help sustain our fighting force, on whom depend the security and safety of our nation's families and communities. It is important to emphasize and recognize the role that military children play while their service member parents are serving the nation. The MIC3 is committed to resolving the educational transition issues that are faced by these children and their families.

Across the nation, Friday, April 12, 2013, will be the day to **"Purple Up! For Military Kids."** People are being encouraged to wear purple on that date to show support for our military kids and to thank them for their strength and sacrifices. Please check for events in your area celebrating this day and this month.

Military families move between postings on a regular basis, and while reassignments can often be a boon for career personnel, they can be difficult for the children of military families. The average military student faces transition challenges more than twice during high school, and most military children will attend six to nine different school systems in their lives from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The Interstate Compact seeks to make these transitions easier for the children of military families so they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals.

As part of the Compact, the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children was established. To date, forty-four states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Compact and placed it in statute. The Commission continues to work with the Department of Defense, Council of State Governments, national organizations, and state leaders to bring the remaining states on board. As states join the Compact, these member states form their State Councils and inform their school districts of the terms of the Compact. Educational efforts for school personnel as well as military families are ongoing so they may work together to ensure the educational success of our military children.

Please take time this month to recognize the service of our military members and their families—and especially their children. They deserve our support!

Sincerely,



Kathleen F. Berg, Brig. Gen. (Ret.)
Commission Chairman
MIC3 Commissioner – Hawai'i

